

Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Library

The Greenwich Free Library encourages visits by children and vulnerable adults and wants to make these occasions memorable, educational, and enjoyable. This policy has been established to achieve these goals.

The Library assumes no responsibility for the care and supervision of children and vulnerable adults. No Library employee is authorized to care for any child or vulnerable adult regardless of circumstances.

Children below the age of nine and children who require supervision must be with a caregiver at all times.

Children may not be supervised or left in the care of anyone who is under the age of sixteen (16).

Caregiver Responsibilities

The Library requires that caregivers do the following:

Monitor and approve their charge's use of books, materials, technology and other resources of the Greenwich Free Library. The Library staff has no obligation to and will make no attempt to restrict access by children to information in the Library or on its computers.

Ensure that their charge exhibits appropriate behavior in the Library and in Library programs as described in the Library's Code of Conduct.

Be alert to "stranger danger." The Library, unlike a school, is an open facility and cannot restrict who may visit. Also, the Library staff does not and cannot monitor when children leave and/or with whom they may be leaving.

Unaccompanied Children

Children aged 9 and over may visit the Library independently for a reasonable period of time. Parents or guardians are still responsible for their behavior, will be contacted if necessary and shall be liable for any damage they cause.

Staff may attempt to contact the parents or guardians of unattended children in the following events:

- Caregiver is not present at closing time.
- Child's health or safety is in question.
- Child's behavior is not in compliance with Patron Code of Conduct.
- Library closes due to emergency conditions.

The Greenwich Police Department will be contacted if a caregiver cannot be located. Under no circumstances may a Library staff member drive a child to any location.

Use of Designated Children’s and Teen Areas

Adult patrons who are not accompanying a child or engaged in Library activities that require materials in the children’s area may be asked to relocate from the Children’s Room.

When Greenwich Schools are not in session, the Quiet Room is reserved for tweens, teens and accompanying family members. Other patrons may be asked to relocate to other areas of the Library.

Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable adults, who can understand and follow the rules of conduct and who can care for themselves, are welcome to be in the Library unattended. Vulnerable adults will be expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Library’s Patron Code of conduct. For their safety they should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency.

Vulnerable adults who are unable to care for themselves must be attended and have adequate supervision at all times.

If a situation arises with a vulnerable adult, which may include illness, anxiety, unacceptable behavior, emergency closing or lack of transportation after regular closing, Library staff may attempt to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver. The Greenwich Police Department may be contacted if attempts to reach a caregiver are unsuccessful. Under no circumstances may a Library staff member drive a vulnerable adult to any location.